



General Solon Information

The City of Solon is located in Johnson County in eastern Iowa. Solon is in close proximity to three larger communities—Iowa City, Coralville and Cedar Rapids. The town provides a good location for residents to live in a smaller community and easily commute to work in the nearby larger cities. The University of Iowa is also located in Iowa City, offering excellent employment and education opportunities to residents in Solon. There are several other communities in the vicinity that each offer their own unique flare for people in Solon to enjoy.

Solon's economy is now composed of a few service industries, but still functions primarily as a bedroom community for the larger cities of Cedar Rapids, Coralville and Iowa City. Since 1990, construction has increased on the east, west and south periphery of the town. With the close proximity to Lake Macbride State Park and the Coralville Reservoir, as well as the excellent local school district, Solon has become a desirable community to live in.

The 2000 census calculations denote the population of Solon as 1,177. This is a 12% increase since 1990. The Census Bureau estimated the population at 1,313 in 2004. This is another 12% increase, and is largely due to the new annexations and subdivisions. Solon is expected to continue to grow as more people are drawn to the convenient location with minimal commute. The median value of housing is higher than in other small communities in the area, yet housing is more affordable than in the nearby Iowa City, Coralville, and Cedar Rapids areas.

There are a large number of recreational opportunities both in Solon and in the surrounding area. The recreational facilities range from general open spaces in certain neighborhoods, to playgrounds and a pavilion at Randall Park, to the full spectrum of outdoor activities at Lake Macbride State Park. In addition to these facilities, there are programs available for both youths and seniors in Solon. There is a need for more indoor facilities, which are being planned for as future projects through the churches, school, and City.

Local and service streets comprise the majority of Solon's road network. Solon has two arterial roadways—Iowa Highway 1 and Main Street/County Road F-16/Old Iowa Highway 382. The Iowa Department of Transportation is looking to improve Highway 1 in Solon, but has not decided whether to widen it in its current location or to bypass downtown Solon. This decision, once made, will most likely influence the direction of growth in Solon.

General Solon Information

Council, Boards, & Commissions

City Staff

City Council

Planning And Zoning

Board of Adjustments

Parks And Recreation

Library Board of Trustees

Agenda & Minutes

City Code

Applications & Forms

Employment Opportunities

Links

Map of Solon

Community Events

Contact Us

Home

City of Solon

223 S. Iowa

Solon, IA 52333

319.624.2122 - f

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Essential police protection services are provided in Solon through a contract with the Johnson County Sheriff's Department. The Solon Fire Department is a volunteer department with over 30 members, serving the greater Solon area. Water and sewer services are provided directly by the City of Solon. Both will be improved in the next 5 years to meet increased demands on the systems. The City will also be analyzing storm drainage in the City limits and start a drainage improvements program.

Educational opportunities are readily available to residents in Solon. In addition to Solon Community Schools, there are several college and university services within 20 miles of the City.

Solon is a growing community. Until now, most of the growth has been in residential uses. However, with the increased number of households in the area, there is an increased need for more commercial businesses in the area. The City is growing to afford additional services, such as more (and a greater variety of) restaurants, dry cleaning services, professional services, etc. The City plans to encourage economic development and enhance the opportunities in the community for businesses to locate there.

Culture and history can provide a unique identity to a City. Community design, architectural guidelines, and landscaping features can maintain that cultural feel. Solon has strong architectural culture that should be enhanced and maintained to keep with the historical significance.

Future growth of Solon should follow logical boundaries, protecting rural areas and efficiently expanding utilities for urban uses. The City will continue to coordinate annexations with other jurisdictions to ensure the best future growth while protecting natural resources and rural uses.

To encourage future growth to be done in a cost efficient manner, the City has adopted land use policies to best manage this. Additionally, it is important that the City maintain a zoning ordinance that addresses land use patterns to best guide the growth in Solon to minimize the impacts of conflicting uses and development types. Subdivision and site plan review ordinances supplement the zoning ordinance to better serve the level of growth in Solon. Finally, the City will accommodate the potential growth by continually evaluating infrastructure needs.

For additional information regarding Solon, copy and paste the following link into your internet browser:

<http://www.locationone.com/lois/logon.do?username=IA->

[Solon&appsection=localities&community_id=1888](http://www.locationone.com/lois/logon.do?username=IA-Solon&appsection=localities&community_id=1888) .



Council Boards Commissions

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There are a total of six boards and commissions authorized under the City of Solon. Four of those boards or commissions are currently active: Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Adjustments, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Library Board of Trustees. The other two commissions that are currently inactive are the Historical Preservation Commission and the Cable TV Committee. Although the city has the authority to set up a Historical Preservation Commission, that commission is not currently in existence due to lack of need. Also, the Cable TV Committee is an established commission, but positions are only filled/appointed as cable franchise issues arise.

Below is a summary of the duties of the various boards and commissions. For more information on these boards or commissions (i.e., members, meeting dates, projects), please refer to the specific section under this website's main menu that pertains.

Duties Of The Planning And Zoning Commission

The duties of the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission include establishing and recommending amendments or modifications to the zoning code, making recommendations on construction of public structures, reviewing and commenting on plats, reviewing and commenting on street and park improvements, and reviewing site plans. The P&Z Commission is also responsible for making an annual report to the City Council of its proceedings during the preceding year.

The P&Z Commission does not have any budgetary responsibilities.

The P&Z Commission holds regular monthly meetings on the last Tuesday of every month. The meetings are at 6:00 p.m. at the Solon Public Library. These meetings are open to the public.

Duties of the Board of Adjustments

The Board of Adjustments, similar to the P&Z Commission, serves in the capacity of land use for the City of Solon. The Board of Adjustments (B of A) more specifically deals with zoning, whereas the P&Z Commission also encompasses site plan and subdivision duties. Unlike the P&Z Commission, the B of A is a decision-making body, not just advisory.

The B of A hears and decides on appeals of decisions made by the Zoning Official, hears and decides on special exceptions/conditional use permits, and authorizes variances from the Zoning Code. The City Council may remand a decision back to the B of A if they do not agree with the decision. However, after the B of A has reviewed the issue under the remand, whatever their final outcome is would be considered the city's final decision. If after that the final decision is appealed, the issue must be reviewed by a court of record in the manner provided by state law.

The Board of Adjustments does not have any budgetary responsibilities.

The Board of Adjustments meets on an as needed basis as issues arise. The meetings are actually official public hearings and require notice as such. The Board of Adjustments' decisions are to be reviewed by City Council, however the Council does not have the authority to overturn a Board's decision, as previously discussed.

Duties Of The Parks And Recreation Commission

The duties of the Parks and Recreation Commission include overseeing the equipment, maintenance and conduct of playgrounds, swimming pools, and recreation centers owned and under the control of the city. The Parks and Recreation (P&R) Commission is also in charge of coordinating and implementing programs such as the Summer Recreation Program, Solon swimming lessons, the Halloween party, and the Holiday Lighting Contest.

The P&R Commission submits a proposed budget for City Council approval.

General Solon Information

Council, Boards, & Commissions

City Staff

City Council

Planning And Zoning

Board of Adjustments

Parks And Recreation

Library Board of Trustees

Agenda & Minutes

City Code

Applications & Forms

Employment Opportunities

Links

Map of Solon

Community Events

Contact Us

Home

City of Solon

223 S. Iowa

Solon, IA 52333

319.624.2122 - f

319.624.3755 - p

They are responsible for administering revenues and expenditures of their budget, as set by the City Council. The P&R Commission does hire employees for some of their programs with approval by the City Administrator. They set the wages for those employees, as approved by the City Administrator and within the confines of their budget.

The P&R Commission holds regular monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of every month. The meetings are at 5:30 p.m. at the Solon Community Schools Administration Offices Conference Room. These meetings are open to the public.

Duties of the Library Board of Trustees

The duties of the Library Board include the following: having charge, control, and supervision of the library; directing and controlling all affairs of the library; hiring/discharging the librarian; making purchases within the budgetary limits set by the Library Board; authorizing the uses of the library by non-residents and charging a fee for such use; making, adopting, amending, modifying, or repealing rules and regulations for the care, use, government, and management of the library; having exclusive control of the expenditure of all funds allocated for library purposes by the Council; having exclusive control of all moneys available by gift or otherwise for the erection of library buildings; and having exclusive control of all other moneys belonging to the library including fines and rentals collected; accepting gifts (less than \$1,000) and expending funds received as such; enforcing the performance of gifts and donations; and keeping record of the Library Board's proceedings. For gifts exceeding \$1,000, the Library Board administers the gift subject to Council approval. The Library Board also has the power to contract with other libraries.

The Library Board submits a proposed budget for City Council approval. They are responsible for administering revenues and expenditures of their budget, as set by the City Council. The Library Board does hire their own employees, although paid through the city. They set the wages for those employees, within the confines of their budget.

Library Boards are unique, in that they were established as a safeguard to protect against censorship. There is no other board, commission, employee, or elected official that may overrule the type of materials purchased or the type of programming selected by the Library Board, so long as they are provided within the allowance of the budget or through donations. Additionally, so long as Fair Labor Standards Act and other state and federal employment regulations are adhered to, the library staff are hired, discharged, and managed at the discretion of the Library Board (again, within the confines of the budget).

The Library Board holds regular monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of every month. The meetings are at 7:30 p.m. at the Solon Public Library. These meetings are open to the public.



Council Boards Commissions

City Staff

About the Staff

The City Administrator is the head of all staff. The Administrator is directly in charge of the employees and operations of the administration and public works (streets, water, and sewer) department employees. Administrative staff consists of the City Administrator, City Clerk/Treasurer, and any occasional secretarial staff. The public works department consists of the Public Works Director, Public Works Utilities Specialist, and Public Works Laborer. For more information on staff hierarchy and roles, see "Form of Government" section.

The City Staff

City Administrator -- Cassandra Lippincott

Cassandra joined the City in November 2005. She came to the City of Solon from the position of City Administrator in Manning, Iowa, a community in western Iowa with a population of 1500. She was attracted to Solon because of the development occurring in the community, the future growth potential of the City and the quality of the school system. Cassandra is excited to be in the City of Solon as it brings her closer to her childhood home near the Quad Cities. Cassandra is the third City Administrator since the position was created in 2000, and she brings over 9 years of experience as a Certified Municipal Clerk and City Administrator to the City of Solon. Cassandra holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting from Saint Ambrose University and has completed post graduate coursework in Public Administration at Iowa State University. Email: cassandra.lippincott@solon-iowa.com

City Clerk/Treasurer -- Susie Siddell

Connie was hired as City Clerk/Treasurer in August 2006. Some of her responsibilities include utility billing, payroll, accounts payable, and acting as the City's Treasurer. Email: susie.siddell@solon-iowa.com

Public Works Director -- Scott Kleppe

Scott was hired as the Water/Wastewater Supervisor in September 1998. He was in charge of those two departments and assisted with the Streets Department. In March 2001 the City Council re-organized the departments to be all under one public works department. This was done to allow for better coordination and accountability in the departments. At that time, Scott was promoted to Public Works Director. Email: scott.kleppe@solon-iowa.com

Public Works Utility Specialist -- Greg Nigg

Greg was hired in April 2001 as Public Works Utilities Specialist. He

General Solon Information

Council, Boards, & Commissions

City Staff

City Council

Planning And Zoning

Board of Adjustments

Parks And Recreation

Library Board of Trustees

Agenda & Minutes

City Code

Applications & Forms

Employment Opportunities

Links

Map of Solon

Community Events

Contact Us

Home

City of Solon

223 S. Iowa

Solon, IA 52333

319.624.2122 - f

319.624.3755 - p

has since been certified for water and wastewater treatment (Grade I) to further his training as the second in command to the Public Works Director. Email: greg.nigg@solon-iowa.com

Public Works Laborer -- Mark Pisarik

Mark was hired in May 2002 to this position. The Public Works Laborer position was expanded from part-time to full-time in July 2002 due to the increased work volume the City has taken on.

Parks & Rec Coordinator -- Todd Linderbaum

Todd was hired in April 2005 to coordinate youth rec leagues and concession stand managagment. He will also be coordinating the summer rec program.



General Solon Information

City Council

Mayor and Council

The City of Solon is a Mayor-Council form of government (see "Form of Government" section). The residents of Solon elect the Mayor and City Council in staggered 4-year terms. The City Council may, except as expressly limited by the State of Iowa, exercise any power and perform any function it deems appropriate to protect and preserve the rights, privileges and property of the city and of its residents, and preserve and improve the peace, safety, health, welfare, comfort and convenience of its residents.

The Solon Mayor and City Council Members

Mayor--Rick Jedlicka

Rick joined the City Council in 1997 and has served as Mayor since September 2001 when his Council colleagues appointed him to fill a vacancy created when the previous Mayor resigned. Rick's term will end in December 2007.

Rick can be reached by email at rick.jedlicka@solon-iowa.com.

City Council Member--Sue Ballantyne

Sue is currently in her second term on Council, having been re-elected in 2003. Sue first joined the City Council in January of 2000. Sue's current term will end in November 2007.

Sue can be reached by email at seballantyne@aol.com.

City Council Member--Brad Randall

Brad is serving in his first term on City Council, being recently elected in 2005. Brad's term will end in December 2009.

Brad can be reached by email at brandall@solon.k12.ia.us.

City Council Member--Cami Rasmussen

General Solon Information

Council, Boards, & Commissions

City Staff

City Council

Planning And Zoning

Board of Adjustments

Parks And Recreation

Library Board of Trustees

Agenda & Minutes

City Code

Applications & Forms

Employment Opportunities

Links

Map of Solon

Community Events

Contact Us

Home

City of Solon

223 S. Iowa
Solon, IA 52333

319.624.2122 - f

319.624.3755 - p



General Solon Information

Planning and Zoning

The Planning and Zoning Commission is a seven-member board that considers rezoning, preliminary and final plats, site plans, and certain ordinance changes. The Commission is appointed by the City Council, and reviews applications in accordance with approved regulations pertaining to all zoning districts within the City of Solon. The Commission also gives reasonable consideration to the character of districts and their unique suitability for particular uses, with a view toward conserving the value of buildings, encouraging the most appropriate use of land throughout the City, and encouraging compliance with an approved comprehensive plan.

The Planning and Zoning Commission meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Solon Public Library meeting room.

If you have any questions about the Commission or any items on the agenda, please contact Cassandra Lippincott at (319) 624-3755 or cassandra.lippincott@solon-iowa.com.

Planning & Zoning Commission 3-Year Term

Charlie Whetstine - Chairman
Brian Heinsius
Rick Childs
Brian Mulcahey
Sue Samek
Rod Radenbaugh
David Ranard

General Solon Information

Council, Boards, & Commissions

City Staff

City Council

Planning And Zoning

Board of Adjustments

Parks And Recreation

Library Board of Trustees

Agenda & Minutes

City Code

Applications & Forms

Employment Opportunities

Links

Map of Solon

Community Events

Contact Us

Home

City of Solon
223 S. Iowa
Solon, IA 52333

319.624.2122 - f
319.624.3755 - p



General Solon Information

Board of Adjustments

Board of Adjustments Members

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

The Board of Adjustment members are appointed by the mayor. Vacancies are filled in the same manner. The term of office of the members is 5 years, in staggered terms.

The Commission members and their term ending dates are listed below:

- Tim Broghammer
12/31/06
- Mark Krall
12/31/07
- Dennis Hansen--Chairman
12/31/08
- Dale Fordice
12/31/09
- Floyd Studt
12/31/10

DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

The duties of the Board of Adjustments includes deciding on appeals of decisions made by the Zoning Official, hearing and deciding on special exceptions/conditional use permits, and authorizing variances from the Zoning Code. The City Council may remand a decision back to the Board if they do not agree with the decision. However, after the Board has reviewed the issue under the remand, whatever their final outcome is would be considered the city's final decision. If after that the final decision is appealed, the issue must be reviewed by a court of record in the manner provided by state law.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board of Adjustments meets on an as needed basis as issues arise. The meetings are actually official public hearings and require notice as such.

General Solon Information

Council, Boards, & Commissions

City Staff

City Council

Planning And Zoning

Board of Adjustments

Parks And Recreation

Library Board of Trustees

Agenda & Minutes

City Code

Applications & Forms

Employment Opportunities

Links

Map of Solon

Community Events

Contact Us

Home

City of Solon
223 S. Iowa
Solon, IA 52333

319.624.2122 - f
319.624.3755 - p



City Code

City of Solon Code of Ordinances

The Municipal Code of the City of Solon is published online as a convenience to citizens. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of material published online, citizens are advised the only official edition of the Code is the printed version maintained by the City Clerk. Please note there may have been amendments, additions, or deletions to this Code made subsequent to the last update. For more information, contact the City Clerk's office at 319-624-3755.

Table of Contents

SUPPLEMENT RECORD

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part 1 - Chapters 1-10 - GENERAL CODE PROVISIONS

Part 2 - Chapters 15-25 - ADMINISTRATION, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Part 3 - Chapters 30, 35-36 - POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCIES

Part 4 - Chapters 40, 45 - PUBLIC OFFENSES

Part 5 - Chapters 50-51, 55 - NUISANCES AND ANIMAL CONTROL

Part 6 - Chapters 60-70, 75-76, 80 - TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

Part 7 - Chapters 90-94 - WATER

Part 8 - Chapters 95-99 - SANITARY SEWER

Part 9 - Chapters 105-106 - GARBAGE AND SOLID WASTE

Part 10 - Chapters 110-114 - FRANCHISES AND OTHER SERVICES

Part 11 - Chapters 120-124 - REGULATION OF BUSINESS AND VOCATIONS

Part 12 - Chapters 135-140 - STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

Part 13 - Chapters 145-146, 150-152, 155 - BUILDING AND

PROPERTY REGULATIONS

Part 14 - Chapters 165-175 - ZONING AND SUBDIVISION

INDEX

If you wish to download the Solon City Code as one complete document, please click [here](#). *(Because this is a larger file, it is recommended that you right click on the link and save the file to your computer.)*

General Solon Information

Council, Boards, & Commissions

City Staff

City Council

Planning And Zoning

Board of Adjustments

Parks And Recreation

Library Board of Trustees

Agenda & Minutes

City Code

Applications & Forms

Employment Opportunities

Links

Map of Solon

Community Events

Contact Us

Home

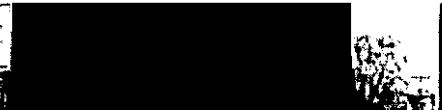
City of Solon

223 S. Iowa

Solon, IA 52333

319.624.2122 - f

319.624.3755 - p



Community Events

July 21-22, 2006 – Beef Days Celebration

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the Annual Beef Celebration in Solon, Iowa! Come visit us on Main Street for 2 days of fun and entertainment for the whole family. Events include a parade, a 5k walk run, and musical entertainment. The entertainment is open to all who come at no charge! Visit www.beefdays.com for additional information.

General Solon Information

Council, Boards, & Commissions

City Staff

City Council

Planning And Zoning

Board of Adjustments

Parks And Recreation

Library Board of Trustees

Agenda & Minutes

City Code

Applications & Forms

Employment Opportunities

Links

Map of Solon

Community Events

Contact Us

Home

City of Solon

223 S. Iowa

Solon, IA 52333

319.624.2122 - f

319.624.3755 - p



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36 organizations found (0.735 seconds)
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Page: 1 2

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AMERICAN LEGION POST 0460 STINOCHER

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IO-DIS-E-CA CORPORATION

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OUR LORDS CHURCH

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CHRISTY AND THE NEW CREATION INC

Solon, IA 52333

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE COUNTY & MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES

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WITTY KITTIES INC

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SOLON COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION

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ST PETER AND PAUL HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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JOHNSON COUNTY SHEEP & WOOL

Solon, IA 52333

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IOWA LIPIZZAN ASSOCIATION INC

Solon, IA 52333

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THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

Solon, IA 52333

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE COUNTY & MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES

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WESTERN FRATERNAL LIFE ASSOCIATION

Solon, IA 52333

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Solon, IA 52333

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SOLON BEEF DAYS COMMITTEE

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CATHOLIC ORDER OF FORESTERS

Solon, IA 52333

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ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB OF SOLON

Solon, IA 52333

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GMPO CORPORATION

Solon, IA 52333

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ASSOCIATION OF OPERATING ROOM NURSES

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SOLON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION

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36 organizations found (0.625 seconds)
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Page: 1 2

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PTA Iowa Congress

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His Women, Inc.

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ST JOSEPH CEMETERY ASSN

Solon, IA 52333

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AMERICAN PROSTHODONTIC FOUNDATION

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SUTLIFF BRIDGE AUTHORITY

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FRIENDS OF THE SOLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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SOLON COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES

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SOLON AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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ST MARYS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Solon, IA 52333

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ASSOCIATION FOR THE SEVERELY HANDICAPPED

Solon, IA 52333

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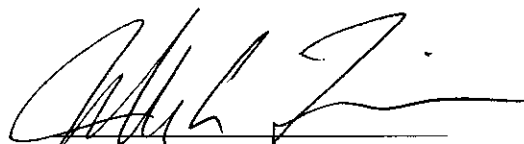
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Jeffrey L. Timmons, hereby certify that on this 6th day of October, 2008, copies of the foregoing "Reply Comments" have been served either by Federal Express and then hand delivery (* denotes such delivery) or by United States first class or priority mail, postage prepaid and postmarked by the pleading filing date, upon the following:

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